EXHIBITS (Newspaper Articles)

THE NEW YORK TIMES,
SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, 1963.

Prison Racial Fight Injures 23 Upstate; 450 Join in Melee

COMSTOCK, N. Y., Sept. 27 (AP) — About 450 white and Negro prisoners fought each other with fists, stones and timbers today at the Great Meadow Correctional Institution, about 70 miles north of Albany.

The State Correction Department said the racial brawl was a reflection of tensions outside prison walls.

The prison reported tonight that five guards and 18 inmates had been injured, none seriously.

A guardhouse in the prison yard was wrecked, and the inmates wielded the timbers as weapons, Superintendent Joseph P. Conboy said.

Guards using tear gas stopped the fighting within 15 or 20 minutes, and no shots were fired, the Correction Department said. The prisoners, who had been in the yard for a recreation period, were immediately locked in their cells.

Correction Commissioner Paul D. McGinnis said in Albany that there was "no question" the fighting was said that apparently colored prisoners wanted to show support of members of their race outside of prison.

He said it was believed the fight started with a quarrel over use of handball and basketball courts. Some courts at the prison are integrated and some are segregated — by actions of the prisoners themselves — Mr. McGinnis explained. There has been some problem lately, he said, over who may play on which courts.

Great Meadows, a medium-security prison, has 1,400 prisoners. They are mostly men who have been transferred from reformatories or other prisons.

TRENTONIAN
JUNE 11, 1963

RAHWAY PRISON RACE TENSIONS RISE

RAHWAY (UPI) — Seven hundred inmates at the state prison farm here refused to go to work today in a dispute which a prison spokesman said resulted from racial tensions involving Black Muslims.

The 700 prisoners — more than half of the institution's

call and jammed the infirmary for examinations.

The institutions and agencies department said it was the second day that the men had staged a non-violent protest demonstration.

Last Thursday, it was disclosed, most of the men staged a hunger strike and refused to eat the meal of the day.

The prison spokesman described the demonstration as a direct result of a "teriffic struggle for power" at the prison between white and black extremists.

The growth of the Black Muslim movement at the prison, he said, has resulted in the formation of a counter-movement of white fascists.

There have been no physical clashes yet but prison officials were reported concerned over the manner in which the situation has steadily worsened.

The striking prisoners presented a petition protesting insufficient work programs, the food, racial discrimination in the prison shop and other grievances.

The petition was submitted to Gov. Richard J. Hughes, the seven justices of the State Supreme Court, Institutions and Agencies Commissioner Lloyd W. McCorkle, Prison Superintendent Warren Pinto and the prison board of managers.

TRENTONIAN
JUNE 17, 1967

PRISON HIT BY RACE STRIFE

RAHWAY — Racial incidents broke out in the State Prison here and in Rahway yesterday and institutions officials moved quickly to stem any violence. Inmates at both prisons were locked in their cells and State Institutions officials said 41 "ringleaders" had been moved to county jails near both prisons.

A spokesman for the department announced the riot prevention measures were taken at 10:30 p.m. and said they would remain in effect "until things quiet down." He blamed the disturbances on racial tensions but said racial discrimination wasn't a factor.

The action was touched off by an unruly demonstration by convicts yesterday during the recreation period at the state prison. Six hundred convicts reported "sick" at the Rahway Branch a week ago.

Lloyd W. McCorkle, institutions and agencies director, ordered the prisoners confined to their cells last night after a day-long series of conferences. All recreational activity was suspended.

The spokesman said the demonstrations were "a device to bring pressure on institutional officers" and the State Board of Managers to force them to abdicate their statutory responsibility for the safe custody and welfare of all inmates.

Last week, a self appointed inmate committee of 18 men presented a list of grievances to officials at Rahway. The incidents were said to involve mainly pushing, shoving and shouting but no violence.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1966.

1,000 Riot 2 Hours in Baltimore Prison

BALTIMORE, July 8 (AP) — Inmates rioted for two hours today at the Maryland Penitentiary, setting fire to four buildings, throwing rocks, bricks and clubs, and looting the commissary.

Authorities used tear gas to subdue 1,000 prisoners who were loose in the yard at the height of the riot. Baltimore policemen stood by with riot guns, but none of the guns were fired.

About two-thirds of the 1,461 inmates at the prison are Negroes. Officials said some inmates charged the guards used brute force, and a state legislator said the rioting had racial overtones.

The warden said the basic reasons for the riot were the recent heat wave, overcrowding and living conditions in the prison.

An assistant warden, three inmates and several firemen were overcome by smoke during the riot and 50 persons suffered cuts and abrasions.

Vernon L. Pepersack, the State Commissioner of Correction, called the riot "the worst in terms of destruction I have ever seen" during 29 years of prison administrative work in Maryland.

But Mr. Pepersack said it was "not assaultive" in the sense of violence, noting the prisoners were armed with clubs, baseball bats and other weapons, which they did not use on prison personnel.

In addition to setting the fires, the inmates looted the commissary and tore down a guard shack. They were prevented by fire hoses from entering the power station.

"The riot had to have racial overtones," said Joseph Bullock, a member of the State House of Delegates and a member of the committee on prisons.

"It stems from people on the outside," Mr. Bullock said. "If they don't stop telling these prisoners about their

rights it is going to get worse."

"The aspect of civil rights and civil disobedience outside has found its way into the prison community," said Mr. Pepersack. All outside behavior carries over into prison. Nothing new starts in prison."

The riot was the second major incident in nine months at the maximum-security institution, situated a few blocks from the heart of downtown Baltimore.

Warden Roger B. Copinger said there was "no strife between Negroes and whites" within the institution.

"The Negroes long have had complaints about so-called rights," Mr. Copinger said. "For example, one grievance is that all three members of the parole board are white. But now we have a new twist. The whites say we are showing too much favoritism to Negroes."

In October, 1965, about 700 prisoners staged a one-day sit-down strike. Earlier this year, Franklin Bough was replaced as warden by Mr. Copinger after charges that inmates were leaving the institution for unauthorized purposes.

Last month, Gov. J. Millard Tawes asked James V. Bennett, retired director of the United States Bureau of Prisons, to make a thorough survey of the administrative procedures and practices of the Maryland correctional system.

Mr. Bennett agreed only to look into the work-release program of prisons in the state.

State Senator Verda Welcome, a Negro, talked with inmates after order was restored.

"They named several guards as being brutal," Mrs. Welcome said. "Some of the Negro guards are the guilty parties. The prisoners had nothing but praise for Warden Copinger and Assistant Warden James Jordan."

Mr. Jordan was one of those who suffered smoke inhalation. Mr. Copinger said he was overcome when he went to the rescue of two inmates in the burning commissary.

A riot plan was put into effect at the prison yesterday after a Negro inmate had been subdued by guards when he was not at his assigned job and resisted efforts to take him to a cell block.

Warden Copinger said rumors swept the penitentiary that the guards had used unnecessary force in subduing John E. Jones, 24 years old, of Baltimore. Jones was transferred to the Maryland House

of Correction after being treated for bruises.

Mr. Pepersack said a group of prisoners tried to incite about 800 others to riot in a recreation yard yesterday by accusing the guards of mistreating the prisoner. Extra guards were ordered out, and the inmates returned to their cells.

At a three-hour meeting at the penitentiary tonight, 19 inmates related their grievances.

William B. Harris, the director of community relations for the Baltimore city police department who acted as moderator, promised the inmates they would receive answers to their complaints in a reasonable time.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1963

RAHWAY INMATES STAGE PROTEST

Food and Pay Head List of Prisoners' Complaints

Special to The New York Times

TRENTON, June 10 — Six hundred inmates at the Rahway State Prison Farm staged a four-hour demonstration today, the third this month.

The protest ended after Lloyd W. McCorkle, State Commissioner of Institutions and Agencies, met with 18 unidentified prisoners, described by him as leaders of the group. The inmates reported sick this morning and failed to join prison work details. There are about 1,100 inmates at the prison.

The spokesman for the group told Mr. McCorkle that their food was inadequately prepared. He also asked for an increase in the standard pay of 17 to 55 cents a day and for more parole hearings, the Commissioner said.

All of the 600 men later appeared in the mess hall for lunch.

On Sunday, June 2, about 400 inmates, all Negroes, gathered in small groups in the prison recreation yard. They squatted on the ground and listened to speeches by fellow inmates urging support for the Black Muslim sect, according to a spokesman for the Department of Institutions and Agencies.

On last Thursday, the spokesman said, almost all of the inmates refused to appear for dinner in the mess hall. In recounting these and today's incidents, he attributed the three demonstrations to racial tension.

However, Mr. McCorkle denied knowledge of racial tension at the prison farm. The complaints "added up to the usual gripes," he said.

It was at the Rahway in 1952 that violent riots broke out and spread to the maximum security New Jersey State Prison here. At that time, there was bloodshed and considerable damage to prison equipment.

About 62 per cent of the inmates at Rahway are Negroes, Mr. McCorkle said.

THE EVENING CAPITAL
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1967

Prisoners Indicted In Sexual Assaults

Twenty-six prisoners at the Maryland House of Correction have been indicted by the Anne Arundel County Grand Jury for sexually assaulting four other inmates during a riot at the institution on Jan. 28.

The accused, all Negroes, are charged with assaulting four white prisoners. The charges include sodomy, assault and battery and perverted sex practices.

One indictment charges that 17 prisoners assaulted one 19-year-old inmate. Another accuses nine others of attacking a 20-year-old.

County Prosecutor Julian B. Stevens said the 90-minute riot was a "sexually motivated outburst." He said he did not feel it was a "riot against the administration of the House of Correction or any defect in the administration.

The uprising started with an attack on a guard after some 50 inmates left a meeting at which they discussed grievances with warden John P. Garrity. About 100 inmates participated in the riot which was quelled by State Police.

Officials said they were let out of their cells by fellow prisoners.

(Associated Wire Service Dispatch)

ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 23 (AP)—The Anne Arundel County Grand Jury indicted 26 prisoners today on charges of sexually assaulting four others during a riot Jan. 28 at the house of correction.

Bust it
§G 118BA

Telegraph Editors: Portions of the following story may be considered objectionable.

The AP Baltimore

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ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 23 (AP) — The Anne Arundel County Grand Jury indicted 26 prisoners today on charges of sexually assaulting four others during a riot Jan. 28 at the house of correction.

The accused men are Negroes and the four attacked white.

The 26 are charged with sodomy, assault and battery and perverted sex practices.

One indictment charges that 17 prisoners assaulted one 19-year-old inmate. Another accuses nine of attacking a 20-year-old.

Julian B. Stevens, county prosecutor, described the 90-minute riot as a "sexually motivated outburst." He said he did not feel it was a "riot against the administration of the house of correction, or any defect in the administration.

"It was a riot during which horrible sexual assaults occurred in great numbers," agreed Robert C. Sweeney, Deputy State Attorney General, "but it was a riot."

He said it "had its beginnings with an attack on a guard."

The uprising started after about 50 inmates left a meeting at which grievances were discussed with Warden John P. Garrity.

Officials said one inmate grabbed keys from a guard and opened the cells of others. About 100 prisoners participated in the outburst which caused an estimated $20,000 damage.

It was quelled by state police.

TRI 1050PES

THE SUN, BALTIMORE, SUNDAY, JAN. 29, 1967

State Police Quell 1 1-2 Hour Riot Involving 100 Jessup Inmates

Outbreak Begins After Guard Is Robbed Of Keys To Cell

JESSUP, Md., Jan. 28 (Special)—An estimated 100 inmates of the Maryland House of Correction rioted here tonight for about 1½ hours, setting numerous small fires and breaking open the main water pipe in their cell block.

Prison officials late last night estimated damage from the riot at about $20,000, mostly caused by water.

The riot started about 7 P.M. after a group of about 50 inmates left a meeting with Warden John P. Garrity to discuss grievances, shoved a prison guard and stole his keys which allowed them to free other inmates from their cells.

Three prison guards were reported "bruised" at the outset of the riot and at least one prisoner was removed from the four-tiered West Wing of the men's prison to which the riot was confined.

State Police Move In

The riot ended about 8:30 P.M. when some 100 State police, carrying billy clubs and wearing riot helmets, entered the cell block and ordered the rioting inmates back to their cells.

The men went willingly, according to Col. George E. Davidson, chief of operations of State Police, who added that his men entered the cell block as a "show of strength."

Warden Garrity said he thought the riot was a spontaneous outbreak and had "not been planned."

He declared firmly, however, that some of the inmates were under the influence of drugs, and he said, "I'm going to find out who is under the influence . . ."

He said there was a lot of water spilling from the walls of the cell block and a number of small fires burning. "There was a lot of noise and chaos," he said.

Warden Garrity said the men burned mattresses and "everything burnable," but that guards manning hoses at the institution were able to douse the fires before they spread to the building.

"They were tearing the place up, just like they did two years ago," Warden Garrity said. Inmates at the House of Correction staged a three-hour riot on October 23, 1964, causing an estimated $50,000 in damage.

In that riot, twelve prison guards barricaded themselves inside cells in an effort to pro-

tect themselves from the prisoners.

Firemen Summoned

For last night's riot, firemen were summoned from Jessup, Ocenton and Brooklyn. State Police were summoned from Waldorf, Annapolis, Glen Burnie, Bel Air, Waterloo, and Frederick barracks. State Police K-9 units were also called and the barks of dogs rang through the cell block.

In a press conference about . . . ., Colonel Davidson said the riot was "different from others" in that inmates did not at first quiet down to listen to prison officials and police over loudspeakers.

"This time they were loud, noisy, boisterous and they didn't pay any attention to demands that they go back to their cells," the State Policeman said.

The chain of events leading to the riot started about 6:30 P.M., Warden Garrity said, when he was called to an auditorium to meet with a group of inmates who said they wanted to talk with him about grievances.

The list included these things:

1. "Lousy food." The warden said one of the inmates told him, "You should have to eat this food."

2. There was no vocational rehabilitation program at the prison.

3. Prisoners wanted to talk with "an outsider" about conditions within the prison.

They specifically named Francis B. Burch, State Attorney General, who recently called for a complete investigation of the State's penal system. Mr. Burch offered immunity to convicts who talked about conditions.

4. They wanted a wire screen removed from what they called a "segregation section" of the cell block in which some prisoners are isolated from others.

5. Many prisoners, especially Negroes, objected to being called "boy."

One Inmate's Treatment

Warden Garrity said the talk session with him "seemed to stem from an inmate they thought was not being treated right." He did not elaborate.

"They didn't like the way the institution is being tightened up," the warden said, also not going into further detail.

As the meeting ended, the warden said he asked the men to return to their cells.

"I said if they didn't have faith in me, that's their business," he said, adding that he told them he would "look into their grievances."

On their ways to the cells from the meeting, several inmates shoved a guard on one tier and took his keys. Many

inmates in the cellblock did not take part in the riot, however, some by choice and others because the free inmates were unable to unlock their cells.

Prison officials said the West Wing held 703 men. The entire House of Correction — popularly known as "The Cut" — currently has 1,743 inmates and is considered to be overcrowded.

After the prisoners had been locked in their cells, prison officials led reporters through the area, which smelled of smoldering mattresses, pillow cases and bed linen and was covered with water.

Prisoners yelled to reporters that the one inmate injured in the riot had been accidentally hit on the head with a piece of pipe and that fourteen stitches were needed to close the cut.

State Police said that in the early stages of the riot, prison guards had squirted some inmates with fire houses attempting to herd them back to their cells.

There was little evidence of fire, damage, except for the beds.

One prisoner, who said he didn't take part, told a reporter: "You never know when a man's life will be involved. Thank God no one was killed."

As State Police started their search of cells, Robert F. Sweeney, deputy attorney general, appeared at the prison.

Then, a few minutes past 10 P.M., Mr. Burch, with whom inmates said they wanted to talk, showed up dressed in a tuxedo.

He, Mr. Sweeney, Warden Garrity, Vernon L. Papersack, commissioner of corrections, and other prison and State Police officials went in to a closed meeting to discuss the riot.

On November 26, 1966, inmates rioted at the nearby Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup. Two prisoners escaped, but were later captured during that flare-up.

On July 8, 1966, rioting inmates set fire to several shops at the State Penitentiary in Baltimore.

On April 12, 1966, two inmates were shot during a riot at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Breathedsville, Washington county.

MARCH 24, 1967

23 Are Indicted In Jessup Riot Sexual Assaults

(Annapolis Bureau of The Sun)

ANNAPOLIS, March 23 — Twenty-three prisoners were indicted today by an Anne Arundel county grand jury for sexual assaults on four other inmates of the House of Cor-

rection in Jessup during the January 28 riot at the penal institution.

Seventeen of the prisoners named in one of the indictments were charged with assaulting one 19-year-old inmate. A 20-year-old was attacked by nine of his fellow prisoners, according to another indictment. Some of the prisoners were accused of sexual assaults on more than one victim.

The 23 accused men were indicted on four counts each of assault and perverted sex practices.

Only Indictments

Julian B. Stevens, Jr., the county prosecutor, and Morton Sacks, an assistant State attorney general, both said there would be no further indictments as a result of the riot.

Mr. Stevens today called the 90-minute riot at the Jessup institution a "sexually motivated outburst."

He said he did not believe, after studying reports of the State Police investigation, that it was "a riot against the administration of the House of Correction, or any defect in the administration."

"Could Not Agree"

However, Robert C. Sweeney, deputy State attorney general, said he "could not agree with that characterization" after he was told today of the indictments.

"It was a riot during which horrible sexual assaults occurred in great numbers," he said, "but it was a riot."

Mr. Sweeney, who was one of the State officials called to the scene of the trouble January 28, said the riot "had its beginnings with an attack on a guard," and that resentment over the confinement of a prisoner in "the hole" had been a factor also.

After Grievance Meeting

It was noted at the time that the riot erupted just after a group of 50 inmates left a meeting with Warden John P. Garrity to discuss grievances.

Prison officials said one of the inmates grabbed a guard's keys while the group was returning to the four-tiered West Wing of the men's prison, and used the keys to free many other men from their cells.

JANUARY 31, 1967

Inmate Hurt At 'The Hole'; Burch Begins Full Probe

By STEPHEN A. BENNETT

The State's attorney general acknowledged yesterday that an inmate injured Saturday night at the Maryland House of Correction was struck on the head in "The Hole" area after he allegedly attacked a guard.

Francis B. Burch, the attorney general, said he was making a "very, very complete investigation" of the incident.

The inmate, William H. Wills, was in good condition at the Maryland Penitentiary hospital yesterday. Mr. Burch said the inmate suffered head cuts and back scrapes.

Happened After Riot

The incident occurred after the 1½ hour riot.

Mr. Burch said the inmate allegedly struck a guard and was taken to "The Hole" area of the prison, where unruly inmates are kept in solitary confinement.

Earlier, prison officials had indicated that Wills was injured during the riot.

Mr. Burch also said one or two shotgun shots were fired above inmates' heads during the riot as a warning to keep them from getting to key boxes.

He said he had not yet received a report from the State Police and therefore had reached no conclusions about the riot.

The attorney general said Wills, inmates in the area, and guards had been questioned in connection with the incident in "The Hole."

He also confirmed that three inmates had been "seriously" sexually attacked during the rioting. Prison sources say this is not an infrequent occurrence.

Cause Alleged

Mr. Burch said he had no knowledge of reports that the rioting began after another inmate had been threatened with being put in "The Hole."

The inmate had sworn at a guard, the guard claimed. Another officer was called to put the inmate in "The Hole."

At that point, sources said, the inmate ran from tier to tier of the West Wing of the prison and in the process got a knife. No one approached him.

Later, prison officials decided to feed inmates in other tiers, but not those in the tier in which the inmate with the knife was standing, sources continued. They said the inmate then climbed up to another tier and mingled with others who were allowed to eat.

After dinner, about half the inmates returned to their cellblock while the others began protesting about the threats to put the inmate in The Hole.

The men had been ordered out to talk over their complaints, sources said, when the inmates tore a gate off the auditorium, entered and sat down. They demanded to see Warden John P. Garrity.

Rioting Starts

After Mr. Garrity had talked to them and told them to return to their cells, they began to riot.

More than 100 inmates participated in the rioting, which caused an estimated $20,000 worth of damage, according to Warden Garrity.

About 100 State troopers, using dogs, clubs and riot helmets, used a show of force and firehoses to drive the inmates back into cells.

The institution is at Jessup, about 15 miles southwest of Baltimore.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19, 1967

'Wall of Fire'

Thousands of Cons in 'War' At San Quentin

A "massive racial confrontation" between armed white and Negro convicts at San Quentin was finally broken up yesterday after 3½ tense, touch-and-go hours.

Warden Lawrence Wilson said his guards threw up "a wall of fire" with an assortment of weapons to keep 1400 whites separated from 1000 Negroes.

The warden said the two groups got within 50 feet of each other in the Main Yard but "we fired a lot of rounds of ammunition describing limits for people."

Eight convicts were hit by bullets or richochet slugs and taken to the prison hospital, but it was not known how serious their wounds were.

Another five prisoners received "head wounds" from other weapons and one convict was treated at the hospital for a heart attack.

CLUBS

The convicts on each side, the warden said, were armed with pieces of pipe, wooden clubs, rocks and even mess hall trays to be used as shields.

"The reason the two groups were kept apart was simply because of our firepower from the catwalk," he said.

Guards manning the catwalks surrounding the Main Yard fired shotguns, sub-machineguns, rifles and tear gas to keep the two booing, cursing groups apart.

Other convicts armed themselves with prison-made dirks and knives. Some carried trays from the mess hall as shields.

Walter Dunbar, head of the State Department of Corrections, arrived at San Quentin from Sacramento to make a personal inspection of the prison.

Dunbar, who said he was urged to make the trip by Governor Ronald Reagan, praised the control work of prison authorities.

"People here at San Quentin know their job," he told newsmen. "They acted decisively and without them it could have been a major riot."

Black smoke was observed belching from the interior of the main part of the prison shortly after the trouble began at 12:30 p.m.

It turned out that convicts had set fire to some wooden classrooms in the West Block annex. The fire was quickly extinguished.

Reinforcements were sent by the Marin county sheriff's office, the State Department of Corrections and the California Highway Patrol.

Patrol Commissioner Harold Sullivan was reported to have ordered 260 of his officers to the prison and placed another 200 on standby alert.

CURSING

Sounds of cursing, booing convicts and, eventually, the sound of rapid-fire shooting could be heard a quarter of a mile away.

Warden Wilson appealed to the white faction time and again to move from the Main Yard to another area known as the Lower Yard.

The convicts at first refused. Eventually some of them were dragged by guards in the direction of the Lower Yard while others were herded in that direction by the shooting.

MOVE

As soon as the white faction had left the Main Yard, according to Associate Warden James Park, the Negro faction agreed to enter the East Cell Block.

"The danger is over for today," Park announced about 4 p.m.

The mass of white convicts sent to the Lower Yard at first refused to return to their cells, but by late last night all had been shifted in groups of about 25 back to their lock-ups.

Yesterday's trouble at San Quentin was described as an outgrowth of five days of disturbances and violence that began last Saturday with the firing of a dozen convicts from their jobs in the food department.

PROTEST

Monday, Black Muslims were reported trying to organize a general strike in protest against the firings.

During this period a white convict, Robert Holderman, 29, was fatally knifed in the prison yard and another white convict, William E. Walker, was stabbed.

Tuesday, 800 or 900 of the prison's 1200 Negro inmates refused to go to work. And Tuesday night, authorities said, a white convict was beaten by a group of Negroes.

TALKS

Associate Warden Park, who described yesterday's near-riot as "a massive racial confrontation," said very few convicts will be allowed in the yards today.

"We're going to have to talk individually with each one of these men and try to cool this thing," he said.

A Racial Strike at San Quentin

An uneasy peace prevailed at San Quentin Prison yesterday.

Guards were held overtime to increase security at the crowded institution, and no incidents of violence were reported.

A majority of the prison's 1200 Negro convicts refused to leave their cells and report for work, however.

Associate Warden James Park said the men were afraid of retaliation by 100 to 150 Black Muslims and "hard-core Negro convicts."

Trouble at the prison began Saturday when authorities fired about a dozen Negro, Mexican-American and Caucasian convicts from their jobs in the food department.

There followed an explosion of violence in the fog-shrouded prison yard on Monday that resulted in the knifing death of one white prisoner and facial cuts for another.

Yesterday morning when prisoners were supposed to leave their cells and report to their various places of employment about 800 to 900 Negro prisoners refused to go to work.

Warden Park said he understood the men were afraid of the Black Muslims and hoodlums who wanted to continue the food department squabble.

500 Pounds Weapons

SAN QUENTIN (AP) — Guards picked up 500 pounds of weapons today in the San Quentin Prison yard where convicts dropped them after gunfire broke up a threatened mass racial clash Wednesday.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1967

Cell-Block Fires At San Quentin

By CHARLOTTE RIZNIK

Convicts locked in San Quentin's south cell block lit 50 small fires of protest yesterday, cursed their guards and hurled debris from the cells.

Flaming papers were tossed from the upper tiers and quickly extinguished when they reached the ground.

The south cell block was the only part of the riot-torn prison where trouble was reported yesterday.

LOCKUP

This was because most of the prison's 4000 restless inmates were kept in their cells

throughout the day as a precaution against a repetition of Wednesday's near race riot.

The prisoners were fed sandwiches and told that perhaps today some would be allowed to go to the mess hall for a hot meal.

Only 62 condemned men on Death Row, 60 disciplinary cases in the Adjustment Center and 126 well-behaved inmates assigned to the ranch ate normal meals yesterday.

Warden Lawrence Wilson took to the air yesterday and broadcast over The Gray Network (the prison radio system) a review of Wednesday's trouble.

When Warden Wilson had finished his talk about 3:30 p.m. the disturbance on the south cell block ceased.

It was necessary for the guards to shoot, he said, in order to keep the opposing mobs of whites and Negroes from tearing each other to pieces in the Main Yard.

The warden said the locked-up convicts should share with him a debt of gratitude for the way the custodial staff handled the touchy problem.

Some 15 convicts were wounded in the melee; seven by gunfire and eight by clubs.

The 1000 Negroes congregated at one end of the Main Yard and the 1000 whites gathered at the other end had armed themselves to the teeth.

A shakedown of the yard and individual cells Wednesday night and early yesterday turned up some 1500 pounds of weapons.

There were prison-made knives, mess-hall forks twisted into brass knuckles, clubs, socks filled with rocks, lengths of pipe, screw drivers and scissor halves.

"You can always get a weapon around here," was the warden's droll comment as he surveyed the piles of lethal objects.

Wilson is still not entirely sure who was responsible for the riotous condition or the exact nature of its underlying causes.

It is hoped that conversations with almost all of the prison's 4000 convicts will provide a clue to these questions.

About one third of San Quentin's prison population is Negro.

The prison, as Warden Wilson explained, is subject to the same racial tensions that plague the entire Nation.

Race relations at the prison have been reasonably calm for some time due to a deliberate effort by the administration to promote racial understanding.

Group counseling, recreation hall conferences, seminars and visiting speakers have been used at San Quentin to combat racial prejudice.

During the past few days, racial tension at San Quentin built towards a breaking point due to a series of events.

This tension culminated Wednesday in the Main Yard where the huge groups of angry whites and angry Negroes faced each other for 3½ hours.

By keeping most of the prisoners locked in their cells yesterday and again today, Warden Wilson hopes passions will cool and the prison routine can be restored.

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Tuesday, January 17, 1967

San Quentin Prisoner Is Slain

SAN QUENTIN (AP)—A white prisoner was stabbed fatally in a disturbance that broke out in a fog-shrouded San Quentin recreation yard early Monday after Black Muslim convicts called for a general work stoppage at the prison.

Robert N. Holderman, 29, of San Francisco, serving six months to 14 years on a forgery conviction, was stabbed twice in the chest and bludgeoned on the head. He died some hours later in the prison hospital.

William E. Walker, 30, of Del Norte County, serving five years to life for burglary and escape, was cut and bruised but was reported in satisfactory condition.

Associate Warden James W. L. Park said the Black Muslim faction called for a general strike in protest over removal of five men from mess hall duty on Saturday.

The disturbance erupted shortly after, Park said, and was quelled quickly although in the thick fog "we had our problems finding out what was going on."

Parks said 45 men, including the Black Muslim protest leaders and those who heeded their call to stop work, were locked in their cells.

Later 200 to 300 unassigned prisoners were locked in their cells as a move to keep yards clear while an investigation is carried out.

Parks said all but a small minority of the prison's 4,000 convicts continued at work.

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Wednesday, January 18, 1967

Convict Strike Continues At San Quentin Prison

SAN QUENTIN (AP)—San Quentin prison officials today tried to break what they called a hardened convict group's grip of terror over 900

Negroes who refuse to report to their prison jobs.

Interviewers tried to uncover the leaders of the strike and those responsible for earlier clashes in which one white prisoner was killed and another injured.

The strikers late Tuesday heard an appeal from the warden over the prison radio system. No demands by striking convicts have been made public.

In a press release, Associate Warden James Park blamed "a combination of Black Muslims and a hoodlum element" for the trouble.

Intimidated

Park said, "We feel by and large that the vast majority of these men have been intimidated by threats and coercion by some 100 to 150 hard core prisoners." Most of the striking Negroes, he said, are "terribly fearful of retaliation if they go to work."

No incidents of violence were reported when the inmates stayed in their cells and did not report to work.

The strike involves three-quarters of the prison's 1,200 Negro inmates. The state prison holds 4,000 convicts.

Those Negroes who did not go to their jobs were locked in their cells.

A prison duty officer, K. W. Haybal, said that most of the prisoners work at jobs connected with maintenance of prison operations. He cited the food services, industries, shops and plants.

Hayball said, "The main jobs are getting done but the strike makes it more difficult."

Start Of Trouble

Trouble started at the prison last Saturday when authorities fired a half dozen Negro, Mexican-American and Caucasian convicts from their jobs in the food department. Officers said the work was not being done properly.

Violence erupted Monday when some of the Negroes tried to stop work. In a dense fog cloaking the prison yard, they attacked two white workers who insisted on going to their jobs.

Robert Holderman, 29, a San Francisco forger, was fatally beaten and stabbed. William E. Walker, 39, a Del Norte County burglar, was beaten.

Uneasy Quiet At San Quentin— Cons in Lockup

An edgy peace continued at San Quentin yesterday for the fourth day since last Wednesday's massive racial confron-

tation between thousands of Negro and white convicts.

All the prison's 4,000 inmates, except for some 200 maintenance workers, remained locked up in their cells. And prison guards were still working 12-hour shifts.

Officer of the day, Joe O'Brien, said the prison's huge population is being fed hot meals in batches of 300 in the south dining room. It takes some two and a half hours to feed everyone by this procedure.

TUESDAY, JAN. 24, 1967

Some Convicts At San Quentin Back at Work

The cells of 700 "hand-picked" convicts were unlocked at San Quentin yesterday so the men could return to their prison jobs.

It was the largest work force assembled since last week's massive racial confrontation in which 1000 whites and 1000 Negroes faced each other with weapons.

Warden Lawrence Wilson said there will be "a gradual unlock" at the prison until some 3600 prisoners are back at their jobs.

January 19, 1967

Shots, Gas Balk Race Clash Of 2,800 Quentin Convicts

By JACK SCHREIBMAN

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. (AP)—Guards firing rifles, shotguns and tear gas canisters prevented a racial clash between 2,800 white and Negro convicts in the San Quentin Prison yard Wednesday night as the two groups came to within 50 feet of each other.

Eight convicts suffered gunshot wounds during the tense hours following a glaring face-down of the two groups. Five others suffered head wounds from beatings by other convicts. Two men incurred heart attacks.

The confrontation included one group of more than 1,000 whites and Mexican-Americans and another group of about 1,800 Negroes.

Officials said the turmoil grew out of the fatal beating and stabbing of a white prisoner last Monday.

Trouble started after lunch Wednesday, said Associate Warden James W. L. Park, when inmates entered the football field-sized yard. Whites and Mexican-Americans gathered on one side, Negroes on the other. They drew closer,

hurling curses across the no-man's land. Elsewhere on the grounds of the 40-acre prison, another 1,200 inmates tended to their duties.

With the angry convicts separated by only 50 feet, Warden Lawrence E. Wilson mounted the gunwall surrounding the yard and ordered, "Knock it off and go back to your cells."

There was silence, and no one moved.

Park said many of the men had armed themselves with pipes from plumbing ripped from prison facilities, and clubs from benches torn apart in the yard. A temporary classroom building made of wood was set ablaze.

Guards were ready to throw up a "wall of fire" with bullets if the factions got any closer, but it wasn't necessary, Park said.

The two groups surged. Messhall windows shattered. Guards fired warning shots into the air. By this time 500 prison guards and personnel took up posts, aided by a contingent of 65 men from the Marin County sheriff's office and the California Highway Patrol. Gov. Ronald Reagan made more than 200 other highway patrolmen available.

Refused For Three Hours

For nearly three hours the two groups refused to obey orders.

"No one seemed to want to make the first move," Wilson said.

Finally, tear-gas canisters were thrown and the Negroes, prodded by warning shots whining through the air, let themselves be herded back to their cells.

The remaining group of whites and Mexican-Americans stayed in the lower yard for about seven hours. Smoke billowed out of the yard as they burned benches to keep warm in a chilling fog that moved in.

They wore only dungarees and light shirts. In the late afternoon, one man was hit in the mouth by a richocheting bullet, Park said. Below the main gate, as Wilson gave a news conference, a flurry of shots were heard.

"Some of the men probably went where they weren't supposed to go," he said.

At 7:15 p.m., another staccato burst of shots rang out. Four men were wounded in this, it was explained, mostly around the legs. At about 8:30 p.m., guards began moving men back into their cells in groups of 25. And 2½ hours later all had been returned to cells and the

prison was pronounced "secure."

Supper for the convicts Wednesday night was cold sandwiches served in their cells. That would be the fare for most of the inmates today.

Trouble Began Saturday

Trouble started last Saturday when prison officials fired six Negroes, Mexican-Americans and whites from their jobs in the food department for misbehavior.

Park said that led to the stabbing and beating last Monday of Robert Helderman, 29, during a Black Muslim demonstration in the prison yard. He died later that day. On Tuesday about 900 Negroes refused to work. Park said they were terrorized by a hard-core group of hoodlums and Black Muslims. Wednesday before the blow-up, 200 men still refused to work.

'Scared To Death'

Park told newsmen he believed "85 to 90 per cent" of the men in the yard during the confrontation were "scared to death" about what was happening but would not cooperate with officials over fear of retribution.

Park said the prison administration now had a massive and tedious job before it of digging out the troublemakers and punishing them.

JANUARY 20, 1967

San Quentin Convicts Undergo Interviews In Probe of Rioting

SAN QUENTIN (AP) — San Quentin Prison officials are interviewing a large number of convicts today seeking to determine the specific causes of a local clash.

Warden Lawrence Wilson said Thursday the prison is subject to the usual racial tensions that plague other parts of the nation.

About 1,000 Negroes gathered at one end of the prison's main yard Wednesday and 1,000 whites gathered at the other. Wilson said both groups were "armed to the teeth."

Guards firing rifles and shotguns kept the two groups from converging although eight convicts were wounded by bullets and five others beaten in brawls.

The prison's 4,000 inmates about one third of them Negroes were locked in their cells Thursday.

Only in the south cells where convicts started about 50 small harmless fires and cursed guards was any trouble reported.

After Wilson talked with the prisoners over the prison's radio system the south cell also quieted down.

The prisoners were served sandwiches in their cells.

Wilson said most of the prisoners are still being kept in the cells again but that perhaps some would be allowed to go to the mess hall for hot meals.

Friction first appeared Saturday when six men including both whites and Negroes were fired from food department jobs for misbehavior.

That led to a prison strike which Associate Warden James W. L. Park blamed on Black Muslims and hoodlums.

JANUARY 22, 1967

San Quentin Is Slow Returning To Normal Day

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. (UPI) — Prison life in race-tense San Quentin became a bit more normal Saturday, but officials said "we have a long way to go."

The big institution's 4,000 inmates got two hot meals, with 300 men at a time in the dining hall. Heavy guard units continued on duty to head off any build-up towards a racial confrontation like the one which occurred Wednesday.

"Things are moving slowly back to normal," said M. R. O'Brien, of the warden's office, "but we feel we have a long way to go to find the roots of the trouble."

Prisoners still were restricted to their cells except for the trip to the dining hall. But O'Brien said limited exercise periods will be introduced gradually.

In last Wednesday's incident 3,000 prisoners separated into Negro and white mobs and faced each other menacingly in the prison yard. They were armed with improvised weapons, and guards at one point had to put up a wall of gunfire to keep them apart.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1963

PRISONER UPHELD ON SEGREGATION

Court Rules Whites, Too, Must Be Given Choice

ALEXANDRIA, Va., May 22 (AP) — A Federal judge has ruled that "it is equally as unconstitutional to discriminate against a white man as it is to discriminate against a colored man."

District Judge Oren R. Lewis made the ruling yesterday in a case involving plans by District of Columbia Commissioners to integrate the last all-white dormitory at their Lorton, Va., reformatory.

Judge Lewis said Negroes now had a choice between going into segregated or integrated facilities, and that white prisoners were entitled to the same choice.

On the petition of a white prisoner, the judge issued an order blocking action by the commissioners, who adopted a policy last July for integration of three formerly all - white dormitories.

The prisoner, Bernard E. Dixon, argued his own case before the court.

The judge said his order would not block integration of all 23 Lorton dormitories if the policy was applied without regard to color or creed.

Under present policy, however, he said, "Negro inmates are assigned to an integrated dormitory. White prisoners are not given this choice."

Dixon argued that integration of the all-white dormitory would violate his civil rights.

Testimony at the hearing was that the 23 dormitories now have 1,331 Negro prisoners and 169 white inmates. Judge Lewis noted in his opinion that 301 of the Negroes were members of the Black Muslim movement, which preaches black supremacy.

Dixon said white prisoners in his dormitory feared violence by Black Muslims if the dormitory was integrated and also were afraid of contracting diseases from Negro prisoners.

JUNE 11, 1963

RAHWAY INMATES STAGE PROTEST

Food and Pay Head List of Prisoners' Complaints

Special to
The New York Times

TRENTON, June 10 — Six hundred inmates at the Rahway State Prison Farm staged a four - hour demonstration today, the third this month.

The protest ended after Lloyd W. McCorkle, State Commissioner of Institutions and Agencies, met with 18 unidentified prisoners, described by him as leaders of the group. The inmates reported sick this morning and failed to join prison work details. There are about 1,100 inmates at the prison.

The spokesman for the group told Mr. McCorkle that their food was inadequately prepared. He also asked for an increase in the standard pay of 17 to 55 cents a day

and for more parole hearings, the Commissioner said.

All of the 600 men later appeared in the mess hall for lunch.

On Sunday, June 2, about 400 inmates, all Negroes, gathered in small groups in the prison recreation yard. They squatted on the ground and listened to speeches by fellow inmates urging support for the Black Muslim sect, according to a spokesman for the Department of Institutions and Agencies.

On last Thursday, the spokesman said, almost all of the inmates refused to appear for dinner in the mess hall. In recounting these and today's incidents, he attributed the three demonstrations to racial tension.

However, Mr. McCorkle denied knowledge of racial tension at the prison farm. The complaints "added up to the usual gripes," he said.

It was at the Rahway in 1952 that violent riots broke out and spread to the maximum security New Jersey State Prison here. At that time, there was bloodshed and considerable damage to prison equipment.

About 62 per cent of the inmates at Rahway are Negroes, Mr. McCorkle said.

JUNE 17, 1963

New Prison Uproar Brings Crackdown

Special to
The New York Times

TRENTON, June 16—Inmates at the State Prison here staged a noisy demonstration this afternoon that broke up a baseball game at the prison field.

The incident—the third in two weeks here or at the Rahway Prison Farm—led authorities to lock all the prisoners at both institutions in their cells and to suspend all recreational privileges.

Dr. Lloyd W. McCorkle, Commissioner of Institutions and Agencies, said the incident today "had the potential of a major disturbance."

Dr. McCorkle said 41 inmates, whom he described as ringleaders, had been transferred to county jails throughout the state. He said 1,200 prisoners at the slightly overcrowded prison here and the 1,000 at Rahway were to be screened today before anyone would be permitted out of their cells.

Dr. McCorkle said an 18-man inmate grievance committee had been critical of prison administration, but he called their grievances "harassment which we will not permit to go on." He said he expected the prison to return to normal tomorrow.

Six hundred prisoners at the Rahway farm staged a four-hour demonstration a week ago that ended when Dr. McCorkle met with the committee. But many refused to work later and 600 reported sick yesterday..

The prisoners complained that their food was badly cooked and that their pay of 17 to 55 cents a day was not enough.

JANUARY 19, 1967

4,000 In San Quentin Are Locked In Cells

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., Jan. 19 (UPI) — Nearly all of San Quentin prison's 4,000 convicts were locked in their cells today while the warden and his staff investigated a murder that almost triggered a race riot.

"Everything is buttoned up here," said a prison spokesman. He explained that only a few inmates, such as kitchen workers, hospital attendants, boilermen and sanitation personnel were released for work.

Lawrence E. Wilson, the warden, ordered the tight security measures to avert a recurrence of what took place in the main yard yesterday. Nearly 3,000 inmates — two-thirds of the prison's population—gathered into two mobs — whites at one end of the 600-foot-long yard, Negroes at the other.

Guards fired volleys of warning shots and exploded tear gas grenades to prevent a clash. At one point, a prison spokesman said, the guards used their weapons to lay down "a wall of fire" to keep the groups apart.

Eight prisoners were shot and five suffered head wounds but none were seriously injured. One inmate had a heart attack.

The disturbance, the climax of five days of mounting racial tension which included the fatal stabbing of one convict, began at noon. Ten hours later order was completely restored.

Gov. Ronald Reagan ordered more than 400 Highway Patrolmen to be ready to help prison officials. About 50 sheriff's deputies were also alerted.

JUNE 16, 1967

CINCINNATI RIOTS SPREAD TO PRISON

Inmates of Both Races Fight Guards for 3 Hours—12 Negroes Get Stiff Terms

By GENE ROBERTS
Special to
The New York Times

CINCINNATI, June 15 — Rioting spread to Cincinnati's fortress-like city workhouse today after a municipal judge handed down one-year sentences to 12 Negroes convicted of violating the State Riot Act.

For more than three hours Negro and white inmates, wielding mop handles, buckets and bricks, battled National Guardsmen, prison guards and policemen.

The police fought back with tear gas.

It was the first time whites had become involved in the four days of rioting, which thus far has resulted in nearly 300 arrests, more than $1-million in property damage and scores of injuries — four of them serious.

Refused To Move On

Today's troubles began in the courtroom of Municipal Judge William S. Mathews, who sentenced 12 Negroes to one year in the city prison and ordered them to pay $500 fines.

The police testified that the men marched around a service station shouting "black power" Tuesday night, and refused to move on after being told that the State Riot Act makes it illegal to "congregate" during a tense situation.

Judge Mathews then said that he had announced on Tuesday when the riot act was invoked that he was going to hand out maximum penalties to anyone convicted of violating it.

With that he read out the sentences. A Negro woman leaped to her feet in the courtroom and protested that the sentence was unjust. She was joined in shouting by several others including the convicted rioters.

National Guardsmen were immediately rushed to City Hall, which houses the municipal courts, to keep order. Meanwhile, policemen whisked the convicted Negroes to the workhouse.

Screaming at Prison

According to Police Chief Jacob Schott, the Negroes were screaming and shouting when they arrived at the workhouse at noon. And this, he added, touched off a riot among 409 other prisoners divided about equally between Negroes and whites, who had been complaining throughout

the morning about Cincinnati's 90-degree heat.

By 2 P.M., the prisoners were pounding on their cell doors and hurling the contents of their toilet buckets at the prison guards.

The turreted, green and white brick workhouse was buit more than 100 years ago to house Civil War prisoners, Chief Schott said, and has no plumbing facilities.

When the prisoners began setting their mattresses afire at about 3 P.M., the police fired tear gas shells into the cell blocks in an effort to herd the prisoners into the "play-pen" — prison jargon for an outdoor compound.

But once in the compound, the prisoners ripped bricks from a walkway and attacked again. The situation was not brought under control until around 5 P.M.

Demand Electricians

"It was a mess, a real mess," said Chief Schott. "A hard core of about 50 inmates were causing most of the trouble. They were throwing everything they could get their hands on."

He said the prisoners were demanding electric fans and a late night snack.

"There are already some fans in the building," police Sgt. Lewis Dahmann said. "And the guards explained to prisoners that it would do no good to turn them on because they would only suck hot air into the building."

About 50 National Guardsmen rushed into the prison with fixed bayonets and another 50 stood outside with their weapons pointed toward the prison windows.

It was a scene of vivid contrasts. A grassy mall in front of the prison is used as a public playground. And while the guardsmen ringed the building, small children laughed and played on swings only a few yards away.

Meanwhile, others in the detachment of 800 guardsmen, assigned as a riot control force, patrolled such riot-torn areas of the city as Avondale, a Negro district, and Walnut Hills and Evanston, two racially integrated areas.

Along with some 600 policemen, they were able to prevent crowds from collecting in the city's trouble spots. A few of the National Guardsmen patrolled the downtown area in jeeps, causing pedestrians to stop and stare at their battle dress, machine guns and bayonets.

The city remained tense last night, but the saturation tactics of the National Guard and the police prevented sev-

eral incidents of gunfire and window smashing from developing into full-scale rioting such as racked the city on Tuesday.

H. Rap Brown, chairman of the black-power-oriented Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee came to the city this afternoon from Dayton, where Negroes attacked a white man last night after listening to a speech by Mr. Brown and Willie Ricks, another student committee spokesman.

A policeman reported on the police radio tonight that Mr. Brown had spoken to a small group of Negroes in one of Cincinnati's embattled areas and declared: "Snick has declared war."

Police radio announcements indicated that the Police Department was keeping Mr. Brown under close surveillance. He could not be reached for comment.

Earlier, at 3 P.M., city officials closed City Hall to minimize the risk of Negro demonstrations in protest against the one-year sentences given the 12 Negroes.

More than 100 others were also tried today on lesser charges growing out of the riot. Most of their cases were continued.

In Traffic Court, Judge George S. Heitzler fined Peter Frakes, 26 years old, $50 and costs for obstructing pedestrian traffic.

The riot started four days ago after the police arrested Mr. Frakes, who was marching along a sidewalk with a placard calling for the release of a Negro sentenced to death in the murder of a white secretary.

By Tuesday night large crowds of Negroes roamed the streets, stoning police and setting fires. The guard was called out late Tuesday night and by last night was succeeding in dispersing Negro crowds.

But the city continued to be disrupted by hit - and - run arsonists.

Last night firemen answered more than 45 fire calls and extinguished more than 20 fires. The other calls involved home-made firebombs that failed to ignite or false alarms.

Three of the fire bombings took place in Covington, Ky., which is just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.

Rash of Fires in Dayton

Dayton, Ohio, Friday, June 16 (AP) — A rash of fires, some reportedly touched off by gasoline bombs, broke out in

Dayton's racially troubled West Side about midnight last night.

Five houses burned furiously in one neighborhood. A crowd estimated at 200 persons gathered at the scene.

Firemen said three gasoline bombs had been thrown into the Gem City Lumber Company, setting it ablaze. The lumber company was the scene of a $1,000 fire during outbreaks Wednesday night.

The police said that small bands of Negroes were roaming the streets. There were scattered incidents of rock-throwing and window-smashing.

The police said a Negro man and woman had been shot, but did not know whether the shooting had any connection with the racial outbreaks, which flared for a second night here.

Officers said a Negro man had walked up to a couple at a service station and begun shooting. Fred McCoy, 31 years old, was injured critically. His wife, Esther, 31, was listed in satisfactory condition.

Bottle-throwing and looting by Negro youths erupted Wednesday night. Police Chief C. W. Martz blamed a civil rights meeting for those disorders.

MONDAY, JULY 17, 1967

Blaze Is Linked to Breaking of Gas Line and a Lamp During Inmates' Fight

By The Associated Press

JAY, Fla., July 16—Fire, apparently started during a convict brawl, flashed through a wooden barracks at the State Prison road camp late tonight, killing 37 inmates and injuring six others.

Eight of the 51 prisoners in the aging structure escaped the fire unharmed. The six injured prisoners were seriously burned. They were taken to the hospital at nearby Century.

G. C. Mayne Jr., assistant warden at the racially integrated camp, said fighting prisoners broke a gas line inside the building. Escaping gas flared when a fluorescent lamp was broken, he said.

Guards had raced to get their guns to quell the fighting when the fire erupted, according to a guard, Cocker Nelson.

The building was destroyed within eight minutes, Mr. Nelson said.

Pasco Rowells, a foreman of the State Highway Department, who supervised the men at work, said the fight began between a Negro and a white man.

'Whole Room Ablaze'

The sheriff's radio dispatcher, H. C. Crawford, said a prisoner brought to the jail told him, "The whole room was wrapped up with fire."

"Somebody hollered 'fire'," the prisoner, Gerold Milligan was quoted as saying. Milligan, who said he had been sitting on his bed removing his shoes, said the blaze swept the whole top of the building."

"They began to pass out," the prisoner was quoted as telling officials. Milligan said he ducked under beds and crawled toward the door holding his nose.

Just as he got to the door the guard opened it and Milligan escaped with only his hair singed, he said.

Paul Skelton, assistant to the director of Florida's Division of Corrections, said it was inconceivable to him that men were killed because they were not able to get out of the prison, which he said is composed of one-story wooden buildings with no bars on the windows.

The camp is in Jay, a farming community in the extreme northwestern tip of Florida's Panhandle. The camp is about 30 miles north of Pensacola at the Alabama state line.

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1967

Report the Plotters Wanted to 'Tear the Place Apart'

Negro and 2 White Prisoners Said to Have Started Blaze

MILTON, Fla., July 17 (AP) —Prisoners who survived a prison fire yesterday that killed 37 convicts said at an inquest today that it had been set deliberately by three inmates. They said the three had plotted to "tear the place apart."

The convicts said that the three plotters were among those killed when the blaze spread out of control inside the locked barracks building.

The convicts testified that it was about six minutes before a guard unlocked the door after the fire started. They said two white men and a Negro started the fire.

Officials had said previously that the building had been destroyed in eight minutes.

The inquest was held before County Judge Mahlong McCall in the county seat of Santa Rosa County, just 20 miles from the community of Jay where the prison camp tragedy occurred.

Crawled Under Bunk

Joseph C. Lewis, 30 years old, an inmate who said he had saved himself by ducking under a bunk and crawling to

safety once the prison's exit was unlocked, testified.

"I heard they were going to put the building out of commission."

Henry W. Lambert, a convict and cook at the camp, said, "I saw somebody turn the television off and then smash it. Then they were whacking at the fluorescent lights making them pop."

Gary Allen Powell, 19, said, "The ruckus started in the back. Someone jumped on the bed and started beating the lights out. The guard told us to put out the fire. He said he didn't have the key."

The convicts were brought into court in their prison pants, blue with a white stripe down the side, and T-shirts charred by ashes and smoke. Some of the prisoners had no shirts and one was bandaged.

Six prisoners were injured and eight escaped unharmed in the blaze that started about 10:40 o'clock last night.

Most of the dead were huddled in a shower where they apparently sought refuge under the water and at a window whose steel bars blocked escape.

Two escaped through a door unlocked by a guard but died on a lawn inside the barbed wire compound.

Louie Wainwright, director of the State Corrections Division, said, "The prison system had already planned to close Camp 12 where the fire struck. I guess it's shut down for good now."

Mr. Wainwright did not say why the camp was being closed but a similar camp, Number 9, about 20 miles away, was closed June 30, reportedly because of the high maintenance cost. An official prison commission had criticized conditions at Camp 9 before it was closed.

The latest inspection report from the burned camp filed in Tallahassee June 6 by R. B. Gramling, corrections division inspector, rated the prison from "good" to "very good" in all categories.

"This old wooden prison has received good maintenance and the building and equipment are, at present, in good shape," Mr. Gramling said.

"It seemed like an eternity," Roy G. Regan, a prisoner, said at the inquest.

"I was in bed when fire began," Regan said. "I heard the inmates screaming. I saw the fire come rolling down the ceiling. I just got under the bunk and crawled out when I heard the guard shouting, 'The door is open. Come on out'."

That guard, A. O. Lovett, went into the blazing building and herded at least five con-

victs through a curtain of flame when the prisoners apparently froze. He was burned, but not seriously, during the rescue.

Regan said, "If a man stood up in it, he would have lost consciousness from all the smoke and fire. When we got outside we took axes from the truck and cut a hole in the wall and pulled seven of them through."

Earlier, prison officials had disagreed on whether the blaze was an accident or arson.

BALTIMORE NEWS AMERICAN

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1966

Conduct Cell-by-Cell Search

SHAKE DOWN PENITENTIARY

A cell-by-cell shakedown of the Maryland Penitentiary, with special attention to weapons, was conducted yesterday as officials sought to avert a recurrence of Friday's costly riot involving 1,000 prisoners.

Warden Roger B. Copinger Jr. said inmates confined to their cells for the weekend as a result of the burning and looting spree, were moved out individually under guard while their quarters were searched.

Confiscated among other items were the stores stolen from the prison's commissary when a wedge of rioters broke in and set it afire, after three other major fires had been started.

MEANWHILE, PLANS to transfer some of the Penitentiary's over-crowded population to other state penal institutions were under way.

Attorney General Thomas B. Finan urged that inmates who started the uprising, which caused damage estimated at $500,000 "be dealt with firmly."

GOV. TAWES told The News American he would initiate no action himself until he got a full report from Vernon L. Pepersack, state commissioner of correction.

The governor, however, said he firmly believes the tense atmosphere of the overcrowded Penitentiary "will be relieved considerably," when some of the 1,500 inmates are moved to a 500-man facility just completed at the Maryland House of Correction in Jessups.

As the rest of the prison population was quietly taking its noon meal in the cellblocks, 43 inmates were transferred yesterday to the Baltimore City Jail.

Pepersack issued no comment on his plans for the transfer from the Penitentiary of other prisoners.

Ashes of major fires in its tag and print shop, woodworking shop and laundry—its mess

hall and commissary burned and sacked — the prison reeled in the throes of reorganization of work schedules and living routines.

Overcrowding of prison facilities and delay in action on parole, Finan believes were the chief causes of the riot.

And he laid the blame for both directly upon the Maryland General Assembly.

"These two problems have been brought repeatedly to the attention of the State Legislature," Finan declared.

"Their solution involves the appropriation and expenditure of substantial funds for new construction and additional personnel. This naturally means an additional burden on the taxpayer, but it may well be a wise investment."

PRISONERS yesterday were allowed to leave their cells only to take "supervised showers."

Warden Roger B. Copinger initiated a cell-to-cell search for weapons and contraband and expected it to continue through the weekend.

Copinger said damage to buildings amounted to about $200,000, and to equipment and supplies, $300,000.

A rumor in the afternoon that the riot had broken out again, resulting in the calling of Police Departments riot and motorized squads, proved to be false.

Later Rep. Carlton R. Sickles, candidate for governor, issued a statement in which he termed Maryland's penal record "dismal," its prison system, "a failure," and its prisons "archaic." He concluded:

"We have been working for some time on an overall plan to improve Maryland's long neglected penal system. We plan to release our conclusion in the near future."

DECEMBER 17, 1966

Jury Acquits Alleged 'Pen' Riot Leader

The 33-year-old accused ringleader of the July 8 Maryland Penitentiary riot that resulted in about $750,000 damages has been acquitted of riot and arson charges.

A jury under Judge J. Gilbert Prendergast deliberated for more than three hours last night in Criminal Court before finding George McChan innocent of participating in the uprising.

Two months ago, McChan won another court battle when his conviction and subsequent 40-year sentence for participating in shotgun robberies were tossed out because of a Supreme Court decision dealing with confessions.

McChan was accused of leading about 100 inmates who tried to break into the power house and eventually forced their way into the commissary, which was looted of $35,000 worth of merchand se.

NOVEMBER 22, 1966

Pen Official Gets Tight Trial Quiz

The defense conducted a rigorous and detailed cross-examination of Lambert Hardesty, a correctional officer at the State Penitentiary, as the trial of two of the 82 inmates accused of rioting at the jail last July 8 entered its second day at Criminal Court.

Hardesty, a veteran of six years at the Penitentiary, testified that he was crouched in a window and identified Cletus Bane, one of the defendants, as a rioter and looter during the violence that July day.

IN A SURPRISE move just before noon recess, Judge J. Gilbert Prendergast called both sides into conference in his chambers. There was no speculation as to the gist of the half-hour conference.

Warden Roger Copinger, the state's first witness, testified yesterday that damage was put at $750,000 in the wake of massive fires in five buildings and the looting of the commissary.

Richard Biscoe and Bane are the initial defendants in the state's action against the rioters.

HARDESTY said he saw Bane looting the commissary, helping to carry out cases of cigarets and stashing other items in a laundry bag.

Copinger said smoke first came from the metal shop, sewing and shoe repair building, then the laundry, classroom areas of another building and finally the woodworking shop — prisoners all the while running through the yard breaking windows, uprooting shrubbery and inflicting whatever damage they could.

As police surrounded the walls, guards gradually herded some 1,000 inmates into their cells and secured more and more of the prison as they moved in on about 450 of the remaining rioters.

JANUARY 29, 1967

40 Inmates Gang Up On Guards

They Then Free 200 From Cells

By JOHN JENNINGS and BYRON ROBERTS

Vicious rioting raged through the Maryland House of Correction at Jessup last

night after a band of 40 prisoners ganged two guards and freed 200 of their cellmates.

More than 150 helmeted state troopers swung into action with night sticks and K-9 dogs against the warring inmates and battled nearly an hour before quelling the uprising.

Damage was estimated at at least $50,000 by prison authorities.

Trucks from three Anne Arundel County volunteer fire companies sent heavy streams of water through the prison's West Wing windows as the battle raged between the inmates and the guards and police.

THERE WERE NO escapes during the riot, which was believed to have been linked to narcotics traffic in the prison.

Three guards and an inmate were injured, none seriously.

Trouble began in the West Wing shortly before 7 o'clock, when Guard James Haddaway, 42, was leading a group of men to their third-tier cells from the messhall. One of the men yelled:

"Okay, let's go!"

Haddaway was jumped from the rear, knocked down, choked, beaten and robbed of his key ring.

ANOTHER GUARD, Ronald Fassett 24, was behind the group when he saw his partner attacked. The inmates turned on him, beat him nearly unconscious and then locked both officers in a cell.

Unlocking cells as fast as they could find the right keys, the inmates began freeing other prisoners.

More than 200 men poured into the corridor — screaming curses, setting fire to mattresses and breaking whatever furniture that came to hand.